

(Copyright, 1895, by Bacheller, Johnson & Bacheller,) ing me in the shape of M. de Concini, the frem a mission to England, I sailed from that he came from the king, who desired Dover, and crossing to Calais without mis- my instant attendance in the queen's closet. hap anticipated with pleasure the king's satisfaction when he should hear the result of my embassy, and learn from my sult of my embassy, and learn from my wiolent measures against her-from which mouth the just and friendly sentiments I had with difficulty dissuaded him-I auwhich Queen Elizabeth entertained toward gured the worst from the choice of such a

Unfortunately I was not able to impart these on the instant. During my absence a trifling matter had carried the king to Dieppe, whence his anxiety on the queen's account, who was shortly to be brought to bed, led him to take the road to Paris. He sent word to me to follow him, but and mine were quick to take advantage. and that so insidiously and with so much

only, but his happiness. The time at their disposal was increased by the fact that when I reached the arsenal I found the Louvre vacant, the queen, who lay at Fontainebleau, having summoned the king thither. Ferret, his secretary, however, awaited me with a letter, in which Henry, after expressing his desire "Then," he continued, "come to me, my friend, and we will discuss the matter of which you know. In the meantime send me your papers by Ferret, who will give you a receipt for them."

Suspecting no danger in a course which was usual enough, I hastened to comply. Summoning Maignan, who, whenever I traveled, carried my portfolio, I unlocked it, and emptying the papers in a mass on the table, handed them in detail to Ferret. Presently, to my astonishment, I found that one, and this the most important, was missing. I went over the papers again and again, and yet again. Still it was not

Whenever I traveled on a mission of impertance I wrote my dispatches in one of the three modes, according as they were of little, great, or the first importance; in characters that is, in a cipher to which the council possessed the key, or in a cipher to which only the king and I held keys. This last, as it was seldom used, was rarely changed; but it was my duty, on my return from each mission, im-mediately to remit my key to the king, who deposited it in a safe place until another occasion for its use arose.

It was this key which was missing. I had been accustomed to carry it in the portfolio with the other papers, but in a sealed envelope which I broke and again sealed with my own signet whenever I had occasion to use the cipher. I had last seen the envelope at Calais, when I handed the portfolio to Maignan before beginning my journey to Paris; the portfolio not since been opened, yet the sealed packet was missing.

More than a little uneasy, I recalled

I had cut it slightly in unbuckling the portfolio, and a drop or two of blood had I have been with you since morning."

The queen, whose face was flushed with to it at this moment, when my mind was full of my loss, angered me, and even awoke my suspicions. "Silence?" I said, "and answer me. Have you let this bag out of your possession?"

This time he replied straightforwardly that he had not that he had not.

"Nor unlocked it?"

"I have no key, your excellency."
That was true; and as I had at bottom
the utmost confidence in his fidelity, I pursved the inquiry no farther in that directien, but made a third search among the papers. This also failing to bring the tacket to light, and Ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and ferret being in haste to you has come to be in Mme. de Verbet to light, and light to light to light to you have to light to you have to light to light to you have to light to you have to light to light to you have to be gone, I was obliged for the moment to put up with the loss, and draw what comfort I could from the reflection that no dispatch in the missing cipher was extant.



I Handed Them in Detail to Ferret. Whoever had stolen it, therefore, another werse. Still I was unwilling that the king should hear of the mischance from a stranger, and be led to think me careless; and I bade Ferret be silent about it unless

and I bade Ferret be silent about it unless Heary missed the packet, which might not happen before my arrival.

When the secretary, who readily assented, had given me his receipt and gone, I questioned Matanan afresh and more closely, but with no result. He had not seen me place the packet in the portfolio at Calais, and that I had done so I could vouch only my own memory, which I knew to be fallable. In the meantime, though the mischance annoyed me. I attached no great proportaince to it, but anticipating that a emportance to it, but anticipating that a word of explanation would satisfy the king. and a new cipher dispose of other difficul-ties, I dismissed the mater from my mind. Twenty-four hours later, however, I was rulely awakened. A courier arrived from Henry, and, surprising me in the midst of my last preparations at the arsenal, handed me an order to attend his majesty; an carried a double sting. peremptory terms, and lacking all those friendly expressions which the king never sive so brief and formal-and so needless. for I was on the point of starting-had not reached me for years; and coming at this moment when I had no reason to expect a reverse of fortune, it had all the effect of a thunderbolt in a clear sky. I stood stunned, the words which I was dictating to my secretary dying on my lips. For I knew the king too well, and had experienced his kindness too lately to attribute the harshness of the order to chance or forgetfulness; and, assured in a moment that stood face to face with a grave crisis, I found myself hard put to it to hide my

feelings from these about me. Nevertheless, I did so with an effort; and, sending for the courier, asked him with an assumption of carelessness what was the latest news at court. His answer, in a measure, calmed my fears, though it could not remove them. He reported that the queen had been taken ill-or so the rumor

"This morning," he answered.
"The king was with her?"

"Yes, your excellency." "Had he left her long when he sent this

"But—did you understand that her majes—ty was in danger" I urged.

As to that, however, the mna could not say anything; and I was left to nurse my conjectures during the long ride to Fontalnebleau, where we arrived in the cool of the

On the 15th of August, 1601, returning Italian, who, advancing to meet me before

Knowing Concini to be one of those whose influence with her majesty had more than once tempted the king to the most messenger; and, wounded alike in my pride and the affection in which I held the king, could scarcely find words in which to ask

him if the queen was ill.

"Indisposed, my lord," he replied, carelessly. And he began to whistle. I told him that I would remove my boots and brush off the dust, and in five minutes

be at his service.
"Pardon me," he said, "my orders are

you an hour ago.' I was thunderstruck at this-at the message, and at the man's manner; and for a success as to imperil not my reputation moment I could scarcely restrain my incontrol came to my aid in time, and I reflected that an altercation with such a person could only lower my dignity. I contented myself, therefore, with signifying my assent by a nod, and followed him to-my alternative and the consciousness of desert, and the consciousness of desert,

to see me, bade me nevertheless stay in enough of itself to put me on my guard. Fore, I knew to be on occasion as hot as his anger was short lived, and his disposition, "Then," he continued "come to me my chamber; there he fall head and Miles." Galigai, who was in waiting, announced though I saw duli faces enough among my me. I entered, assuming a serene countenance, and found the king and queen together, no other person being present. The queen was lying at length on a couch, while Henry, seated on a stool at her feet, seemed to be engaged in soothing and research the consequences outstrip any that might flow from his wrath. But though I was not altogether at fault in this, I failed to take into account one thing—I mean Henry's account the consequences.

will be in vain. I know she has it; and if the king did not give it to her, who did?"
"That is the question, madame," I said.
"It is one easily answered," she retorted. "If you do not know, ask her." ed. "If you do not know, ask her."
"But, perhaps, madame, she will not answer," I ventured.
"Then command her to answer in the

king's name!" the queen replied, her cheeks burning with fever. "And if she will not, then has the king no prisons—no fetters smooth enough for those dainty

This was a home question, and Henry, who never showed to less advantage than when he stood between two women, cast a sheepish glance at me. Unfortunately the queen caught the look, which was not intended for her; and on the instant it awoke all her former suspicions. Suppos-ing that she had discovered our collusion, she flung herself back with a cry of rage, and, bursting into a passion of tears, gave way to frantic reproaches, wailing and throwing herself about with a violence which could not but injure one in her con-

dition. The king stared at her for a moment in sheer dismay. Then his chagrin turned to arger, which, as he dared not vent it on her, took my direction. He pointed impetuously to the door. "Begone, sir!" he said in a passion, and with the utmost harshness. "You have done mischief enough here God grant that we see the enough here. God grant that we see the end of it. Go-go!" he continued, quite beside himself with fury. "Send Galigai here, and do you go to your lodging until you hear from me!

Overwhelmed and almost stupefied by the catastrophe, I found my way out, I hardly knew how, and, sending in the weman, made my escape from the antenecessarily some days elapsed before we met; an opportunity of which his enemies strict, and they are to request you to attend his majesty immediately. He expected before we tend his majesty immediately. He expected before we have seen and the strict and they are to request you to attend his majesty immediately. He expected before we have seen and the strict and they are to request you to attend his majesty immediately. He expected before we have seen as I might, made in y escape from the anterior chamber. But hasten as I might, my discovered by the strict and they are to request you to attend his majesty immediately. He expected much as I feared or the inquisitive desired, told more than any had looked to learn. Within an hour it was known at Nemours that his majesty had dismissed me with high words—some said with a blow; and half a dozen couriers were on the road to

> rectitude, and the consciousness of desert, ward the queen's apartments.
>
> In the antechamber were several persons, I had to support me an intimate knowledge of the king's temper; which, though I had who, as I passed, saluted me with an air of the king's temper; which, though I had of shyness and incertitude which was never suffered from it to this extent bechamber; there he fell back, and Mile. tion generous. I had hoped, therefore-al-



"BE GONE, SIR!" HE SAID.

communication with him, as you know, for

the middle of her pillows with disdain and ill-temper. "I will, then," he answered, and he turned to me. "M. de Rosny," he said, in a formal tone, which even without the un-accustomed monsieur cut me to the heart, "be good enough to tell the queen how the key to my secret cipher, which I intrusted

tonishment, and for a moment remained silent, trying to collect my thoughts under this unexpected blow. The queen saw my hesitation and laughed spitefully. "I am afraid, sire," she said, "that you have overrated this gentleman's Ingenuity, though doubtless it has been much exercised in your service."

Henry's face grew red with vexation. "Speak, man!" he cried. "How came she

by it?"
"Mme. de Verneuil?" I said. "Mme. de Verneuil?" I said.

The queen laughed again. "Had you not better take him out first, sire?" she said, scornfully, "and tell him what to say?"

"Fore God, madame!" the king cried passionately. "you try me too far! Have I not told you a hundred times, and sworn to you, that I did not give Mme. de Verneuil this key?" neuil this key?"

"If you did not give her that," the queen muttered, sullenly, picking at the silken coverlid which lay on her feet, "you have given her all else. You cannot

Henry let a gesture of despair escape him. "Are we to go back to that?" he said. Then turning to me: "Tell her," he said, between his teeth; "and tell me. Ventre Saint Gris—are you dumb, man?"

Discerning nothing for it at the moment save to bow before this storm, which had arisen so suddenly, and from a quarter the least expected, I hastened to comply. I had not proceeded far with my story, however—which fell short, of course, of explaining how the key came to be in Mme. de Verneuil's hands—hefore I saw that it won no credence with the queen. but rather confirmed her in her bellef that the king had given to another what he had denied to her. And more, I saw that in proportion as the tale failed to convince her it excited the king's wrath and disappointment. He several times cut me short with expressions of the utmost impatience dusion-since I could explain nothing except that the key was gone-he could re-strain himself no longer. In a tone in which he had never addressed me before, he asked me why I had not, on the instant, communicated the loss to him; and when I would have defended myself by overwhelmed me with abuse and reproaches, which, as they were uttered in the queen's presence, and would be repeated. I knew, to the Concinis and Galigais of her suite, who had no occasion to love me,



Nevertheless, for a time, and until

"It came from her chamber, your excel-ncy."

It came from her chamber, your excel-first pause. I interposed. Reminding him

Maignan, who had wither ascal?" I said with some heat. "Has this been out of your custody?"

"The bag?" he answered, looking at it. Then his face changed. "You have out your finger, my lord," he said.

"BE GONE, SIR!" HE SAID.

dangerous game, I warn you?"

"And what game have you played?" she replied, transported on a sudden with equal which so affected the issue that instead of fulfilling my expectations the event left ing at ne. "Now, if you will, dear heart, ask him your questions. I have had no your finger, my lord," he said.

The likely with the washing the likely washing the communication with him, as you know, for with the likely washing the likely washing the likely washing the likely washing the likely washington as you know, for with a likely washing the likely washington as you know, for with a likely washing the likely washington as you know, for with a likely washington as you know, for with a likely washington as you know, for with the likely washington as you know, for with a likely washington as you know, for with a likely washington as you know, for with the likely washington as you know, for with a likely washington as you know, for washingt But it was so lacking in graciousness, so stiff, though it began "My good friend Rosny," and so insincere, though it referred to my past services, that when I had read it I stood awhile gazing at it, and your queen between you, and I will afraid to turn lest De Vic and Varennes, who had brought it, should read my dis-

> appointment in my face. For I could not hide from myself that the gist of the letter lay, not in the expressions of regret which opened it, but in the complaint which closed it; wherein the king sullenly excused his outbreak on the ground of the magnitude of the interests which my carelessness had endangered, and the opening to harass the queen which not tell it, you are disgraced yourself and I had heedlessly given. "This cipher," he said, "has long been a whim with my wife, from whom, for good reasons well known to you and connected with the grand luke's court, I have thought fit to withhold it. Now, nothing will persuade her that I have not granted to another what I said, choking with rage. It had been since any had dared so to beard me. refused her. I trouble, my friend, lest you be found to have done more ill to France

in a moment of carelessness than all your services have done good." It was not difficult to find a threat un-derlying these words, nor to discern that queen's fancy remained unshaken, and ill came of it, the king would hardly forgive me. Recognizing this, and that I was face to face with a crisis from which could not escape but by the use of my utmost powers, I assumed a serious and thoughtful air, and, without affecting to disguise the fact that the king was displeased with me, dismissed the envoys with a few civil speeches, in which I did not fail to speak of his majesty in terms that even malevolence could not twist to my disad-

vantage. When they were gone, doubtless to tell Henry how I had taken it, I sat down to supper with La Font, Betsrueil, and two or three gentlemen of my suite, and, with-out appearing too cheerful, contrived to eat with my usual appetite. Afterward I withdrew in the ordinary course to my chamber, and, being now at liberty to look the situation in the face, found it as serious as I had feared. The falling man has few friends; he must act quickly if ne would retain any. I was not slow in deciding that my sole chance of an honor-able escape lay in discovering-and that within a few hours-who stole the cipher and conveyed it to Mme. de Verneuil, and in placing before the queen such evidence of this as must convince her.

By way of beginning, I summoned Maig-nan and put him through a severe examination. Later, I sent for the rest of my household-such, I mean, as had accompanied me-and, ranging them against the walls of my chamber, took a flambeau in my hand and went the round of them, questioning each, and marking his air and aspect as he answered. But with no resuit; so that after following some clews to no purpose, and suspecting several persons who cleared themselves on the spot, I became assured that the chain must be taken up at the other end, and the first link found among Mme. de Verneuil's follow-

By this time it was nearly midnight, and my people were dropping with fatigue.
Nevertheless, a sense of the desperate
nature of the case animating them, they
formed themselves voluntarily into a kind of council, all feeling their probity attacked, in which various modes of forcing the secret from those who held it were proposed—Maignan's suggestions being especially violent. Doubting, however, whether madame had more than one confidante, I secretly made up my mind to a course which none dared to suggest; and then, dismissing all to bed, kept only Maignan to lie in my chamber, that if any only points occurred to me in the night I might

juestion him on them.

At 4 o'clock I called him, and bade him go out and quietly saddle two horses. This and not a copy, was putting it up again when my eyes feel on a small spot of blood which marked one corner of the ione, I slipped out myself without arousing any one, and, mounting at the stables, took the Orieans road through the forest. My plan was to strike at the head, and, surprising Mme. de Verneuil while the event still hung uncertain, to wrest the secret from her by trick or threat. The enter-prise was desperate, for I knew the stubbornness and arrogance of the woman, and the inveterate enmity which she entertained toward me, more particularly since the king's marriage. But in a dangerous

case any remedy is welcome.

I reached Maleshertes, where madame was residing with her parents, a little before 7 o'clock, and, riding without disguise to the chateau, demanded to see her. was not yet risen, and the servants, whom my appearance threw into the utmost con-fusion, objected this to me; but I knew that the excuse was no real one, and an-swered roughly that I came from the king, tainebleau, where we arrived in the cool of the earlier papers as I than the discussion on a more equal footing, I descended again to particular, and the equal footing, I descended again to particular, and the equal footing, I descended again to particular, and the equal footing, I descended again to particular, and the equal footing, I descended again to particular, and the equal footing, I descended again to particular, and the seemed in no wise surprised to see me. On the contrary, she greeted me with a smile among the rest and in the bag for the contrary, she greeted me with a smile among the rest and in the bag for the contrary, she greeted me with a smile among the rest and in the bag for the contrary, she greeted me with the warm-not discovered the discussion on a more equal footing, I descended again to particular, what shall say to you?"

"The queen is satisfied, sire?"

"The queen is satisfied, sire?"

"The queen is satisfied, sire?"

"Perfectly, and desires to be commended the leagues through the forest, though the leagues through the said, and a taunting word, and omitted nothing and the contrary, she greeted me with the warm-nothed them to him; and had searched only among the rest and in the bag for the contrary, she greeted me with a smile and the discrete and in the bag for the contrary, she greeted me with the warm-nothed them to him; and the bag for the contrary she greeted me with a smile and the contrary.

I had ticked off the earlier papers as I handed them to him; and the contrary she greeted me with a smile and the contrary.

I had ticked off the earlier papers as I handed them to him; and the contrary she contrary she are expected

her, I looked about for one, I found that all the seats except one very low stool had been removed from the room. all the seats except one very low stool had been removed from the room.

This was so like her that it did not astonish me, and I baffled her malice by leaning against the wall. "This is no ordinary honor—from M. de Rosny!" she said, flouting me with her eyes.
"I come on no ordinary mission, mad-

' I said, as gravely as I could.

"From the king, 'madame," I continued,

"Mercy!" She Exclaimed.

not allowing myself to be moved, "to in-

laughed loudly. "Good,

king," she said, "to ask what he knows

all day. So unfortunate, you know, jus

malicious amusement.

"Madame!"

bore that very well.'

hopes?

risk.

times, but is now growing-

"A trifle exigeant and superfluous."

After that I saw that it was war to the knife between us; and I asked her in very plain terms if she were not afraid of the

queen's enmity, that she dared thus to flaunt the king's favors before her.

"You may suffer; very probably will,"

'Yet, believe me, madame, you run some

"In keeping what the king has given

"No! In keeping what the king has not

given you!" I answered, sternly. "Whereas,

what do you gain?"
"Well," she replied, raising herself in

bed, while her eyes sparkled and her color rose, "if you like, I will tell you. This

pleasure, for one thing-the pleasure of seeing you there, awkward, booted, stained,

and standing, waiting my will. That—which perhaps you call a pretty thing—I gain first of all. Them I gain your ruin, M. de Rosny; I plant a sting in that woman's breast; and for his majesty, he has

"Have a care, madame!" I cried, burst-

ing with indignation at a speech so shameless and disloyal. "You are playing a dangerous game, I warn you."
"And what game have you played?" she

with this tradeswoman, so that the king

cried, interrupting herself with a gesture full of rage. "You" have ruined me, you

"On the contrary, madame," I answered,

collecting myself for a last effort, and

speaking with all the severity which a just indignation inspired, "I have not ruined

you. But if you do not tell me that which

She laughed out loud. "Oh, you simpleton!" she said. "And you call yourself a statesman! Do you not see that if I do

"And that is your answer, madame?" I said, choking with rage. It had been long

"Yes," she replied, stoutly, it is! Or,

stay; you shall not go empty-handed." And,

thrusting her arm under the pillow, she

drew out, after a moment's search, a small

packet, which she held out toward me

Take it!" she said, with a taunting laugh.

'It has served my turn. What the king

Seeing that it was the missing key to the

cipher, I swallowed my rage and took it; and being assured by this time that I could

should only expose myself to fresh insults

I turned on my heel, with rudeness equal

to her own, and, without taking leave of her, flung the door open and went

out. I heard her threw herself back with

a shrill laugh of triumph. But as, the mo-ment the door fell to behind me, my

thoughts began to cast about for anothe

way of escape-this failing-I took little

heed of her, and less of the derisive looks

to which the household, quickly taking the

cue, treated me as I passed. I flung my-self into the saddle and galloped off, fol-

surprise, blurted out a clumsy word of con-

I turned on him in amazement, and, swearing at him, asked him what he

"You have got it," he said, timidly, pointing to the packet, which I mechanically held in my hand.

"And to what purpose?" I cried, glad of this opportunity of unloading some of my wrath. "I want, not the paper, but the

secret, fool! You may have the paper for

yourself if you will tell me how madame

Nevertheless, his words led me to look a

the packet. I opened it, and, having satis-fied myself that it contained the original

cover. It was not larger than a grain of corn, but it awoke, first, a vague associa-

tion and then a memory, which as I rode

sudden, discovery flashed upon me-and the

I remembered where I had seen spots of

blood before-on the papers I had handed

to Ferret—and remembered, too, where that blood had come from. I looked at the cut

now, and, finding it nearly healed, sprang

in my saddle. Of a certainty this paper

had been among the others; therefore i

must have been passed to Ferret inside

another when I first opened the bag! The rogue, getting it and seeing his opportu-

nity, and that I did not suspect, had doubtless secreted it, probably while I was

attending to my hand.

had gone through my hands that day!

grew stronger and more definite, until, on a

lowed by Maignan, who presently,

gratulation.

meant.

truth.

effect nothing by staying longer,

I am here to learn-I will!'

found himself woulded before he knew it?

Who was it-but enough: enough!"

full of rage.

ruin you!

made his bed and may lie on it."

she answered, raising her eye-

she answered, slowly and smiling; "not I. Besides, sir-my child was born dead. He

"He does not know, madame," I an-

bons, I suppose!"

She

already!"

length appeared before us, I could scarce-ly keep my pace within bounds. Reflecting how Mme. de Verneuil had overreached herself, and how, by indulging in that last stroke of arrogance, she had placed the secret in my hands, I had much ado to refrain from going to the king booted and unwashed as I was, and though I had not "Mercy!" she exclaimed in a mocking tone. "I should have put on new rib-

eaten since the previous evening.
However, the habit of propriety, which no man may lightly neglect, came to my aid. I made my tollet, and having broken my fast standing, hastened to the court. On the way I learned that the king was in the queen's garden, and, directing my steps thither, found him walking with my col-leagues, Villeroy and Sillery, in the little avenue which leads to the garden of the Conciergerie, 1 number of the courtiers were standing on the low terrace watching them, while a second group lounged about the queen's staircase. Full of the news which I had for the king, I crossed the terrace, taking no particular heed of any one, but greeting such as came in my way in my usual fashion. At the edge of the terrace I paused a moment before descending the three steps; and at the same moment, as it happened, Henry looked up and our eyes met. On the instant he averted his gaze, and, turning on his heel in a marked way, retired slowly to the farther end of

The action was so deliberate that I could not loubt he meant to slight me; and I paused where I was, divided between grief and indignation, a mark for all those glances and whispered gibes in which courquire how you obtained possession of his tiers indulge on such occasions. The slight was not lendered less serious by the fact that the king was walking with my two colleagues; so that I alone seemed to be out of his confidence, as one soon to be out of

swered, severely.
"What?" she cried, in affected surprise. his councils also.

I perceived all this, and was not blind to "When he gave it to me himself!"
"He did not, madame."
"He did, sir!" she retorted, firing up.
"Or if he did not, prove it—prove it. And, by the way," she continued, lowering her voice again and reverting to her former the sneering smiles which were exchanged behind my back; but I affected to see nothing, and to be absorbed in sudden thought. In a minute or two the king turned and came back toward me; again, as if he could not restrain his curiosity, tone of spiteful badinage, "how is the dear queen? I heard that she was indisposed looked up so that our eyes met. This time I thought that he would beckon me to him, satisfied with the lengths to which he had esterday and kept the king in attendance already carried his displeasure. But he turned again, with a light laugh. at this time." And her eyes twinkled with At this a courtier, one of Sillery's crea-"Madame," I said, "may I speak plainly

tures, who had presumed on the occasion to you?"
"I never heard that you could speak otherwise," she answered, quickly. "Even his friends never called M. de Rosny a so far as to come to my elbow, thought that he might safely amuse himself with me. "I am afraid that the king grows older, M. de Rosny," he said, smirking at his companions. "His sight seems to be wit; but only a plain, rough man who served our royal turn well enough in rough "It should not be neglected, then," I said,

grimly. "I will tell him presently what you

say."
He fell back, looking foolish at that, at the very moment that Henry, having taken another turn, dismissed Villeroy, who, wiser than the puppy at my elbow, greeted "No more than I am afraid of yours," she answered, hardily.
"But if the king is disappointed in his me with particular civility as he passed. Freed from him, Henry stood a moment hesitating. He told me afterward that he had not turned from me a yard before his



heart smote him, and that but for a mistake it, he would not have carried the matter so far. Be that as it may-and I do not doubt this any more than I ever doubted the reality of the affection in which he held me-on a sudden he raised his hand and beckoned to me.

I went down to him gravely, and not

hurriedly. He looked at me with some signs of confusion in his face. "You are late this morning," he said.
"I have been on your majesty's business,"

"I do not doubt that," he replied, querulously, his eyes wandering. "I am not-1 am troubled this morning." And after a fashion he had when he was not at ease, he ground his heel into the soil and looked down at the mark. "The queen is not well. Sillery has seen her and will tell you so." powerless, and can do me no harm? Tell it you? When I have you all on the hip-you, the king, the queen! Not for a million crowns, M. de Rosny!" M. de Sillery, whose constant opposition to me at the council board I have else-where described, began to affirm it. I let him go on for a little time and then interrupted him brusquely. "I think it was you," I said, "who nominated Ferret to be one of the king's clerks."

"Ferret?" he exclaimed, reddening at my tone, while the king, who knew me well, pricked up his ears.
"Yes," I said; "Ferret."
"And if so?" Sillery asked, haughtily.
"What do you mean?"

"Only this," I said. "That if his majesty will summon him to the queen's closet, without warning or delay, and ask him in her presence how much Mme. de Verneuil gave him for the king's cipher, her majesty, I think, will learn something which she

"What?" the king cried. "You have discovered it? But he gave you a receipt for the papers he took." "For the papers he took with my knowledge-yes, sire."
"The rogue!" Sillery exclaimed viciously.

"I will go and fetch him."

"Not so—with your majesty's leave," I said, interposing quickly. "M. de Sillery may say too much or too little. Let a lackey take a message, bidding him to go I lackey take a message, bidding him to go I will suspect to the Benefactors which I will suspect to the Benefactors of the said of the will suspect to the Benefactors which I wil to the queen's closet, and he will suspect nothing. The king assented and bade me go and

me anxiously if I felt sure that the man would confess. Yes, if you pretend to know all, sire," I answered, "he will think that madame has betrayed him."

give the order. When I returned, he

"Very well," Henry said. "Then let us But I declined to be present, partly on

would entertain a more confident hope of pardon, and be more likely to confess, if he saw the king alone. I contrived to keep Sillery also; and Henry giving the word, as he mounted the steps, that he should be back presently, the whole court remained in a state of suspense, aware that something was in progress, but in doubt what, and unable to decide whether I were again in favor or new on trial. remained talking to me, princi-

pally on English matters, until the dinner



'What!' the King Cried, "You Have Discovered It." hour, which came and went, neglected by

all. At length, when the curiosity of the mass of couriers, who did not dare to interrupt us, had been raised by delay to an almost intolerable pitch, the king returned with signs of disorder in his bearing, and, crossing the terrace in half a dozen strides, drew me hastily, along with Sillery, into the grove of white mulberry trees. There we were no sooner hidden in part, though I had not suspected him before, because I had ticked off the earlier papers as I about me and embraced me with the warm-

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Gov't Report

Al Baking Powder ABSOLUTELY PURE

"He confessed, then?" Henry nodded, with a look in his face that I did not understand. "Yes," he said,

'fully. It was as you thought, my friend. God have mercy upon him!"
I started, "What?" I said. "Has he—" The king nodded, and could not repress a shudder. "Yes," he said; "but not, thank heaven, until he had left the closet. He

had something about him." Sillery began anxiously to clear himself, but the king, with his usual good nature, stopped him, and bade us all go and dine, saying that we must be famished. He ended by directing me to be back in an hour, since his own appetitie was spoiled. "And bring with you all your patience," he added, "for I have a hundred questions to ask you. We will walk toward Avon, and I will show you the surprise which I am preparing for the queen.'

Alas, I would I could say that all ended there. But the rancour of which Mme. de Verneuil had given token in her interview with me was rather aggravated than lessened by the failure of her plot and the death of her tool. It proved to be impenetrable by all the kindnesses which king lavished upon her; neither the legiti-mation of the child which she soon afterward bore nor the clemency which the king-against the advice of his wisest ministers—extended to her brother Auvergne, availing to expel it from her breast. How far she or that ill-omened family were privy to the accursed crime which nine years later palsied France on the threshold of undreamed-of glories I will not take on myself to say, for suspicion is not proof. But history, of which my beloved master must ever form so great a part, will lay the blame where it should rest.

NEW WINTER BEGONIAS.

Cultivation of Flowers Suggested as a Pastime for Women. From the New York Telegram.

It is one of the triumphs of modern hybridization that it has been found possible to originate distinct families of flowers differing in their habits and appearance from either of their parents.

This is especially observable in the case of begonias, the magnificent tuberousthe fibrous-rooted begonias, which are evergreen, many of those with large, handsome leaves making available to the process of the second second field in the second field field in the second field fie ome leaves making excellent decorative plants in winter.

One of these hairy-rooted begonias (B. socotrana), having been hybridized with pollen from a fine tubrous-rooted begonia, has become the parent of a new race, in which the winter flowering habits and the evergreen character of B. socotrana are retained, while its small red flowers exchanged for handsome blossoms of various shades of rose color and carmine, massive peltate foliage.
One of these is Winter Gem, with rich

even when cut. John Heal, a brilliant rosetinted begonia, is equally persistent, and these plants are invaluable for decorative purposes, either in the conservatory or in these being fully three inches across, and of a bright scarlet, shading to a softer tint in the center, altogether a most beautiful These large-flowered winter besubpeltata type, which bear pretty sprays of more or less pale rose-colored flowers in plants throughout the year, their leaves being specially handsome.

Although begonias of this type, as well as that older form entitled the Rex group, reed considerable moisture in the atmos-phere to expand their broad foliage satisfactorily in summer time, their leaves are almost dormant during the winter, needing to be kept considerably dryer and cooler; for this reason they are specially useful for grouping with flowering plants in the house, standing well for many weeks in any shady position free from frost, and only requiring sufficient water to keep the foliage from drooping. Of this family of begonias Arthur Malet is a very distinct and beautiful plant, with bright pink and silver leaves, veined with green. Louise Closon, tco, is valuable, as contrasting with the paler tints of others, for its beautiful leaves are of the darkest shade of marone. a rich crimson horseshoe being the only other color in its foliage.

Madame Leonnet is remarkable for the variety of its shading, the younger leaves being a rosy shade of carmine, which fades as they expend into a silvery hue, the midribs and veining being of soft, deep green.

A metallic luster is shown in B. Gloire de Sceaux, with bronze foliage reversed with crimson; and Jeanne D'Arc is silvery green, a lovely pale shade, adding a distinct variety to the rest. With these and a few selections from the Rex group of foliage begonias (such as B. splendens, B. aureo-marmarata, with golden markings, and B. La Perle de Paris, with pearly white leaves) a few flowering plants may be made to go a long way, the rich and varied tints of the begonias being very decorative in themselves.

A shabbily dressed man in the last stages of the Paris hospitals recently and was received and cared for. Two days later a strange story ran from one end of the institution to the other. The consumptive, it was said, was a rich land owner from the scuth of France, who, to expiate a life From the St. Louis Republic. the ground that if I were there the queen might suspect me of inspiring the man, and partly because I thought that the rogue very poor and wretched. It seems he had very poor and wretched. It seems he had secretly procured pen and paper and had dictated his will to one of his fellow pa-

He bequeathed all his possessions to the good people who had sweetened his last moments: 100,000 francs to the director, 100,000 francs to the chief physician, 300,charitably sheltered him, and so on. No before the opening of the present century. one was forgotten, not even his companions in misery.

Every patient is solicitously cared for in

the hospital in question, but this one received a double portion of attention. Our of delicacy all forbere to speak to him of his bequest, but all watched over the generous giver with particular tenderness,and, surrounded by every comfort, he breathed his last. The brilliant funeral which followed was paid for by the hospital which he had enriched. But what a sorrowful, stupefying sur

prise was theirs when they learned at the end of a week that in the region indicated as the native place of the deceased, where his house and lands, his valuables and goods were located, he was utterly unknown. The rame he had given was false; the will he had made was a hear. the will he had made was a hoax. At first all concerned were furious, but second thoughts showed them the humor-

ous side of the stupendeus joke of which they had been the victims, and if laughter is a cure for ills many such must have followed in that institution.

Song. When I am dead, my dearest,

Sing no sad songs for me; Piant thou no reses at my head, Plant thou no roses at my near,
Nor shady cypress tree;
Be the green grass above me
With showers and dewdrops wet;
And if thou wilt, remember,
And if thou wilt, forget. I shall not see the shadows,

I shall not beel the rain;
I shall not bear the nightingale
Sing on, as if in pain;
And dreaming through the twilight
That doth not rise nor set,
Haply I may remember,
And haply may forget.
—CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSETT!.

When They Turned Away. From the Indianapolis Joranal.

Unkeltom-"I hear you turned people away in Jayport." Barnes Tormer-"We tried to, but they wouldn't go until they got their money USED TO BE HIS WIFE.

A Matter-of-Fact View of a Serious

From the Memphis Avalanche. I sat in the sheriff's office talking with him about a man in his charge who was to be hanged three days later, when a woman was announced, and in walked a female who had passed fifty. Her face was wrin-

kled, her hair thin and white and her voice

seemed to come out of a reed as she asked:

"Hev yo' got a man in this yere prison named Thomas Jackson?" "Yes'm," remarked the official.

"Did he kill somebody about three months ago?" "He did, ma'am," "And has he bin tried for murder and

sentenced to be hung?" "He is to be hung on Friday, ma'am." "He is, eh?" she queried as she took a pipe from her pocket and proceeded to fill

and light. "Ar' yo' the man who is goin' to hang him?" "I shall have to carry out the law."
"Yaas, of co'se. Folks hev got to be

hung, and we hev got to hev other folks to hang 'em. How does Tom b'ar up under "Very well, indeed, ma'am. I think he will die like a man."
"He will, eh? Wall, that's more'n he

ever lived. Tom's allus bin mighty onery."
"Are you a relative?"
"Used to be his wife, but done left him.

Yaas, lived with Tom fur sixteen y'ars."
"And you have come to say farewell to "No, sir. I'm on my way to Collinsville,

and thought I'd jest run in fur a minit. No, I don't care to see him, but yo' kin say "Yes'm." "And that I'm sorry he's to be hung."

"Yes'm." "But that as long as he's got to be hung and can't get out of it thar hain't no use in fussin' round." "Yes'm."

"If he axes fur anythin' mo' yo' kin say that I'm well; cur boy Sam ar' well; the dawg ar' dead, and I've jest put in two acres of co'n and am gettin' ready to go to camp meetin' next week. That's all. Some jest as well be puttin' in his time on the gallus as loafin' around and wishin' he was

Physical Deeny.

From Harper's Weekly.

"If the repair were always identical with the waste, life would then only be termirated by accident, never by old age." This is a fact well known to all who have ineach bloom being from two to three inches | vestigated the subject, though Mr. G. H. across, borne in elegant sprays above the Lewes, in his "Physiology of Common Life," makes the statement quoted. In crimson flowers, produced in full corymbs early years this balance of the human systhroughout the winter, with the additional tem is admirably preserved. As man admerit of lasting for some weeks in beauty vances in life, however, and gets up to fifty or sixty, he begins to get stiff in the joints, and experiences what he calls "feeling his age." Renovation of various orhouse. B. Adonis, however, bears gans of the body depends on the blood, and away the palm for the size of its blossoms. if this supply is not at all times furnished in sufficient quantity and quality a gradual deterioration takes place. Heart and arteries become clogged, and the whole delicate magonias may well be supplemented with the magnificent foliage of some of the newer Continental fibrous-rooted begonias of the benate of lime accumulate, and the change blood is hindered from going summer, but can be used as decorative tremities of the system and fulfilling its work of repair and renovation. Old age, then, is the result of a change in the blood, which becomes overloaded with earthy salts, leaves its refuse matter in the system and the valves of the heart become cartilaginous. Becoming thus, the heart is not able to propel the blood to its destination. Arteries also having become ossi-fied, a still further obstruction takes place, and the whole body languishes. Blood is life. If it is kept continually in good order our years are prolonged. New bodies, as in youth and early manhood, do not accumulate these fibrinous and gelatinous deposits, which, as the years go by, help the gradual process of ossification and cause the decrepitude of age. Now, if some means were discovered by which the blood could be kept in a condition like that of youth, it would throw off these earthy salts which obstruct the action of the heart and arteries. Our food and drink make our blood. It seems, then, that it is to them we should look primarily for

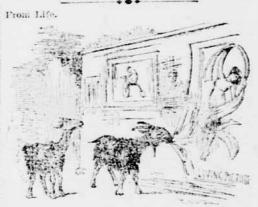
quality of it. Without eating and drinking there is no life; but we may select certain kinds of feeds containing a minimum amount of the elements which cause the ossific blockages in the system. An English physician, Dr. C. F. De Lary Evans, who made many re-searches in regard to our food, comes to the conclusion that more fruit should be eaten, especially apples, grapes and bananas, they being rich in nutritious ele-ments. Being deficient in nitrogen, they are best for elderly people, as they keep the blood in a better condition than flesh. After the age of sixty people should eat less beef and mutton, and use more apples and nuts of all kinds, the latter being rich in many of the nutritious elements of meat, Fish and poultry have not the objectionable earth salts of beef. In order to re-tard physical decay and to keep the blood in a wholesome condition distilled water is recommended. It has solvent qualities which act upon the earth salts in the blood and expel them from the body. A goblet of this water taken three times a day, with ten or fifteen drops of diluted phosphoric asked of consumption presented himself at one acid in each glass, has a tendency to assist e man of the Paris hospitals tecently and was the blood in eliminating the obstructing salts. A man is as old as his arteries. If they are soft and compressible the deteriorating effects of old age have not appeared,

----A Lake With a Lead Bottom.

Dubuque county, Iowa, boasts the possession of the most unique subterranean lake in the world-an underground body of water with a bottom formed throughout of pure crystals of lead. The farm upon, or rather under, which this curious lake is situated is near the city of Dubuque, in the heart of the lead regions which made that portion of the northwest territory famous The prospectors who discovered the cavern in which this lead-bottomed lake is situated had sunk a shaft 200 feet before striking it. They attempted to drain the lake, or pump it dry, so as to get at the lead, but were disappointed to find it connected with the Mississippi river.

Ambiguity That Evoked a Smile. From the Troy Times.

Ambiguous language often gets the publie speaker as well as writer into trouble. This fact was illustrated in one of the Cohces churches Sunday morning. The preacher was discoursing on missionary work in Africa, and was reviewing some of the difficulties which confront the missionary to the dark continent. He took oceasion to inveigh loudly against the rum traffic among the natives, asserting it did more harm than the missionary could do good. "Why," said the prencher, "forty barrels of rum are sent to Africa to every missionary." Of course, the real meaning of the good man was obvious, but, nevertheless, a smile went around the church,



Nanny: Drop cac., Billy; drop it, I tell you; I den't want you to get a taste for that sort o' thing!"